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NPIC/P&DS/285-65
24 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Processing Division, NPIC

SUBJECT: High Precision Coordinatograph

REFERENCE: IPD Memo TCS-9561-65 dated 4 August 1965

1. The Plans and Development Staff personnel are aware of the problems associated with the pen action on the subject plotter, and steps are being taken to overcome them. [redacted] the plotter manufacturer, has been in communication with [redacted]

[redacted] They have a new high viscosity ink applied under pressure on their high-speed mechanical recorder which may have application to the plotter. We are awaiting results from [redacted] on this approach. Also being investigated is the possibility of using a stylus point and pressure sensitive paper rather than pen and ink.

2. An alternative to either of the above approaches is the use of scribe-coat material rather than paper; however, we have not determined whether a scribe-coat process would be acceptable for IPD applications.

3. The pen supplied with the instrument, an EAI plotter pen, must be replaced periodically, as the tip wears with use. Replacement pens are available but need honing prior to use. The ink supply is messy, but is usable with care. This same pen can be procured with its own ink supply (6-8 hours plotting time), but it would require constant replacement. The drying time can be reduced 50% by mixing three parts of the [redacted] ink with two parts of methyl alcohol prior to refilling. This thinner viscosity mixture should also produce a more consistent line. Capping the pen when not in use will help prevent the system from drying out.

4. IPD will be advised of progress on the pen problem as it occurs. In turn, if a scribe-coat system is desired P&DS should be advised.

[redacted]

Colonel, USAF

Assistant for Plans and Development

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We enjoyed our meeting with you when you came to the [] and we have further investigated the inking problem you have encountered with your 60" machine.

Our tests with various types of pens indicated that adding aerosol to the ink definitely helps in the drying time.

Since there is such a difference in the various types of equipment, we believe the only valid test was with your own equipment.

We suggest that you check this with the aerosol and perhaps other types of wetting agents that your people can come up with.

This is the only approach we are able to show any results at all.

We would be very interested in hearing from you as to how this is progressing.

Regards.

Very truly yours,

[]

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RS: LC